



The Naming of

Hurricanes

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE • National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration • National Weather Service • NOAA/79017

Present procedure in the North Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico

The National Hurricane Center near Miami, Fla., keeps a constant watch on oceanic storm-breeding areas for tropical disturbances which may herald the formation of a hurricane. If a disturbance intensifies into a tropical storm—with rotary circulation and wind speeds above 39 miles per hour—the Center will give the storm a name from one of the five lists below. A separate set is used each year beginning with the first name in the set. After the sets have all been used, they will be used again. The 1979 set, for example, will be used again to name storms in 1984. The letters Q, U, X, Y, and Z are not included because of the scarcity of names beginning with those letters. The name lists have an international flavor because hurricanes affect other nations and are tracked by the public and weather services of countries other than the United States. Names for these lists are selected from library sources and agreed upon during international meetings of the World Meteorological Organization by nations involved.

Why Hurricanes Are Named

Experience shows that the use of short, distinctive given names in written as well as in spoken communications is quicker, and less subject to error than the older more cumbersome latitude-longitude identification methods. These advantages are especially important in exchanging detailed storm information between hundreds of widely scattered stations, airports, coastal bases, and ships at sea.

The use of easily remembered names greatly reduces confusion when two or more tropical storms occur at the same time. For example, one hurricane can be moving slowly westward in the Gulf of Mexico, while at exactly the same time another hurricane can be moving rapidly northward along the Atlantic Coast. In the past, confusion and false rumors have arisen when storm advisories broadcast from one radio station were mistaken for warnings concerning an entirely different storm located hundreds of miles away.

The Five-Year List of Names for Atlantic Storms

<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>
Ana	Allen	Arlene	Alberto	Alicia
Bob	Bonnie	Bret	Beryl	Barry
Claudette	Charley	Cindy	Chris	Chantal
David	Danielle	Dennis	Debby	Dean
Elena	Earl	Emily	Ernesto	Erin
Frederic - Sept.	Frances	Floyd	Florence	Felix
Gloria - Sept.	Georges	Gert	Gilbert	Gabrielle
Henri	Hermine	Harvey	Helene	Hugo
Isabel	Ivan	Irene	Isaac	Iris
Juan	Jeanne	Jose	Joan	Jerry
Kate	Karl	Katrina	Keith	Karen
Larry	Lisa	Lenny	Leslie	Luis
Mindy	Mitch	Maria	Michael	Marilyn
Nicolas	Nicole	Nate	Nadine	Noel
Odette	Otto	Ophelia	Oscar	Opal
Peter	Paula	Philippe	Patty	Pablo
Rose	Richard	Rita	Rafael	Roxanne
Sam	Shary	Stan	Sandy	Sebastien
Teresa	Tomas	Tammy	Tony	Tanya
Victor	Virginie	Vince	Valarie	Van
Wanda	Walter	Wilma	William	Wendy

The Names of Particular Individuals Have Not Been Chosen for Inclusion in the List of Hurricane Names.

Hurricanes

H History of Hurricane Names

For several hundred years many hurricanes in the West Indies were named after the particular saint's day on which the hurricane occurred. Ivan R. Tannehill describes in his book "Hurricanes" the major tropical storms of recorded history, and mentions many hurricanes named after saints. For example, there was "Hurricane Santa Ana" which struck Puerto Rico with exceptional violence on July 26, 1825, and "San Felipe" (the first) and "San Felipe" (the second) which hit Puerto Rico on September 13 in both 1876 and 1928.

Tannehill also tells of Clement Wragge, an Australian meteorologist who began giving women's names to tropical storms before the end of the 19th Century.

An early example of the use of a woman's name for a storm was in the novel "Storm" by George R. Stewart, published by Random House in 1941, and since filmed by Walt Disney. During World War II this practice became widespread in weather map discussions among forecasters, especially Air Force and Navy meteorologists who plotted the movements of storms over the wide expanses of the Pacific Ocean.

In 1953, the United States abandoned as confusing a two-year old plan to name storms by a phonetic alphabet (Able, Baker, Charlie) when a new, international phonetic alphabet was introduced. That year, this Nation's weather services began using female names for storms.

The practice of naming hurricanes solely after women came to an end in 1978 when men's and women's names were included in Eastern North Pacific storm lists. In 1979, male and female names were included in lists for the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico.

E Eastern North Pacific Names

Given names are also used to identify typhoons and hurricanes in the Pacific Ocean. A set of four alphabetical lists is used in the eastern North Pacific Ocean. As in the Atlantic, the sets are used again when the four-year lists are completed. The 1979 list will be used again in 1983.

T he four-year list of names for Eastern Pacific storms

1979

Andres
Blanca
Carlos
Dolores
Enrique
Fefa
Guillermo
Hilda
Ignacio
Jimena
Kevin
Linda
Marty
Nora
Olaf
Pauline
Rick
Sandra
Terry
Vivian
Waldo

1980

Agatha
Blas
Celia
Darby
Estelle
Frank
Georgette
Howard
Isis
Javier
Kay
Lester
Madeline
Newton
Orlene
Paine
Roslyn
Seymour
Tina
Virgil
Winifred

1981

Adrian
Beatriz
Calvin
Dora
Eugene
Fernanda
Greg
Hilary
Irwin
Jova
Knut
Lidia
Max
Norma
Otis
Pilar
Ramon
Selma
Todd
Veronica
Wiley

1982

Aletta
Bud
Carlotta
Daniel
Emilia
Fabio
Gilma
Hector
Iva
John
Kristy
Lane
Miriam
Norman
Olivia
Paul
Rosa
Sergio
Tara
Vicente
Willa